

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A stencil printing machine for selectively performing multi-color printing process or mono-color printing process comprising:

a plurality of printing drums adapted to be selectively one of in press contact and out of contact with a common pressure drum, each printing drum being adapted to print on a same print paper; and

a control section controlling a stencil printing process such [[so]] that when the plurality of printing drums are selected, a multi-color printing process is performed by the selected plurality of printing drums, and when any single printing drum is selected among the plurality of printing drums, a mono-color printing process is performed by the selected single printing drum,

wherein the control section further controls the stencil printing process such that when a single printing drum is selected for the mono-color printing process but the selected printing drum is in an error state, an other printing drum is allowed to be selected to perform the mono-color printing process even if one of the printing drums not being used in the current stencil printing process is in an error state, the stencil printing process is performed by other printing drums.

2. (previously presented): The stencil printing machine according to claim 1, further comprising:

a printing drum absence detection section comprising a plurality of first detectors, one of said first detectors corresponding to each printing drum for detecting whether or not each of the printing drums is mounted in the stencil printing machine;

a discharged stencil sheet box absence detection section comprising a plurality of second

detectors, one of said second detectors corresponding to each printing drum for detecting whether or not a discharged stencil sheet box is mounted in the corresponding printing drum; and

a discharged stencil sheet box full detection section comprising a plurality of third detectors, one of said third detectors corresponding to each discharged stencil sheet box for detecting whether or not the discharged stencil sheet box is filled with used stencil sheets,

wherein each printing drum further comprises:

an ink container detection section detecting whether or not an ink container is mounted in the corresponding printing drum; and

an ink sensor section detecting whether or not an ink is filled in the corresponding ink container in the printing drum,

wherein the control section controls the stencil printing process based on detection results of the above detection sections.

3. (currently amended): The stencil printing machine according to claim 1, further comprising an operation panel displaying error information and through which a user selects one or more printing drums to be used in the stencil printing process and initiates the stencil printing process,

wherein the operation panel comprises at least one display section to inform the user of one[[s]] of the following error states for each printing drum:

no printing drum is mounted;

no ink container is mounted;

ink container is empty;

no discharged stencil sheet box is mounted; and

discharged stencil sheet box is filled with discharged stencil sheets.

4. (currently amended): A control method of a stencil printing machine for selectively performing multi-color printing process or mono-color printing process, said stencil printing machine having a plurality of printing drums adapted to be selectively one of in press contact and out of contact with a common pressure drum, each printing drum being adapted to print on a same print paper, the method comprising:

a control step that when the plurality of printing drums are selected, a multi-color printing process is performed by the selected plurality of printing drums, and when any single printing drum is selected among the plurality of printing drums, a mono-color printing process is performed by the selected single printing drum; and

a control step that when a single printing drum is selected for the mono-color printing process but the selected printing drum is in an error state, an other printing drum is allowed to be selected to perform the mono-color printing process even if one of the printing drums not being used in a current stencil printing process is in an error state, the stencil printing process is performed by using other printing drums.

5. Canceled

6. (currently amended) A stencil printing machine for selectively performing multi-color printing process or mono-color printing process comprising:

a plurality of printing drums;

a control section controlling a stencil printing process ~~[[so]]~~ such that when the plurality of printing drums are selected, a multi-color printing process is performed by the selected plurality of printing drums, and when any single printing drum is selected among the plurality of printing drums, a mono-color printing process is performed by the selected single printing drum; even if one of the printing drums not being used in the current stencil printing process is in an error state, the stencil printing process is performed by other printing drums; and

an operation panel displaying error information and through which a user can select~~[[s]]~~ either one of ~~[[or]]~~ one printing drum and the plurality of ~~[[more]]~~ printing drums to be used in the stencil printing process and initiates the stencil printing process,

wherein the control section further controls the stencil printing process such that when a single printing drum is selected for the mono-color printing process but the selected printing drum is in an error state, an other printing drum is allowed to be selected to perform the mono-color printing process.

7. (currently amended) A method of stencil printing using a stencil printing machine for selectively performing multi-color printing process or mono-color printing process, said stencil printing machine including

a plurality of printing drums,

a control section controlling a stencil printing process such ~~[[so]]~~ that when the plurality of printing drums are selected, a multi-color printing process is performed by the selected plurality of printing drums, and when any single printing drum is selected among the plurality of printing drums,

a mono-color printing process is performed by the selected single printing drum, even if one of the printing drums not being used in the current stencil printing process is in an error state, the stencil printing process is performed by other printing drums, and an operation display panel displaying error information and through which a user can select ~~[[s]] either one~~ ~~[[or]] of one printing drum and the plurality of~~ ~~[[more]]~~ printing drums to be used in the stencil printing process and initiates the stencil printing process, the method comprising:

judging whether one or more errors exist in relation to a single or the plurality of printing drums selected by a user;

displaying error information on the operation panel if an error exists so that the user can rectify the machine to remove the error or choose other printing drums to perform a mono-color printing process; and

performing the printing process using the selected printing drums if no error exists ~~and a start key on the operation panel is pushed by the user.~~